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UNI Grad Student News

Graduate College

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UNI GRAD STUDENT NEWS

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Message from the Dean



Now that we're well into the spring semester (although, as of writing this, the temperature is a very non-spring -6 degrees), I hope things are going well. Most graduate students complete their programs in the spring semester, so this is often a crazy time. Students are taking

comprehensive exams, they are defending theses and dissertations, and they are participating in conferences, performances, and our own 7th Annual Graduate Student Symposium.

At moments like this, when things are busy, it is important to remember two things: first, take some time out; and second, use your resources.

Taking some time out for yourself, at regular intervals, can keep you energized, motivated, and ready to tackle the next assignment, performance, lab experiment, or research paper. Exercise is well-known as a great stress-reliever, and UNI offers two facilities on campus: the WRC and the Health Beat in Maucker Union. But even just relaxing over coffee with friends can be a helpful way to avoid becoming exhausted. Everyone will have their own ways to de-stress, so find out what works best for you!

The second thing to remember is to use your resources. There are people and offices all around campus that are here to help you be successful. Your professors can obviously help you with course material, questions about your research or creative work, and program requirements. Beyond them, however, is an array of support. For example, Rod Library has personnel that can help you identify material for your work, and they can help you make the most of the databases they have. There is no need to go it alone! The Writing Center can help graduate students wherever they might be in the writing process. If need be, the UNI Counseling Center is available to students as well.

Good luck as you progress through the semester! There has to be warm weather coming sometime!

Mike Licari
Dean, Graduate College

{ UPCOMING EVENTS }

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE WILL BE PRESENTING THE FOLLOWING BROWN BAG LECTURES FOR THE SPRING 2014 SEMESTER

Jack Yates

Professor

Department of Psychology

&

Carol Yates

Center for Energy and Environmental Education

"Changing Minds, Changing Behaviors,
and the Changing Climate"

Monday, March 3, 2014

Location: Oak Room, Maucker Union

Noon to 12:50 p.m.

Marybeth Stalp

Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology

"Guerilla Knitters, Yarn Bombing,
and Craftivism in Contemporary
North America"

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Location: Oak Room, Maucker Union

Noon to 12:50 p.m.

Eugene Wallingford

Department Head and Associate Professor

Department of Computer Science

"I'll Make it Fit..."

Monday, May 5

Location: Oak Room, Maucker Union

Noon to 12:50 p.m.

Additional presentation information can be found on the UNI Graduate College
events calendar on the Graduate College website: www.grad.uni.edu

GRADUATE FACULTY PROFILE: DR. MICK MACK



Dr. Mick Mack has been involved with UNI both as a student and now as a professor in the School of Health, Physical Education & Leisure Services (HPELS). After earning his bachelor's in Physical Education in 1982, he went on to receive his master's in 1991, both at UNI. The university's teacher education program and reputation

of excellence initially attracted Dr. Mack. He decided to pursue his doctoral degree which he received in 1996 from the University of Iowa.

Dr. Mack was employed as an Iowa public school teacher and coach for 10 years. Today, he has amassed over 20 years of coaching experience ranging from public school systems to the collegiate level.

After working as a teacher and coach, Dr. Mack developed special interest in the mental aspects of athletic performance; especially how the stress of competing affects some athletes while not others. Dr. Mack's dream job was to return to his alma mater as a professor, and after completing his doctoral program, he did so and has been teaching at UNI since 1996.

Dr. Mack researches and specializes in sport psychology. He also has research interests in the area of coaching and currently he is focused on the relationship between mental toughness and sport performance. In the coming years, he plans to continue his teaching, research and work with students. He takes pride in the enthusiasm and passion his students have toward their future professions and finds his role exciting and rewarding. Dr. Mack also attributes the size of UNI which allows him unique opportunities to work with several student-athletes in advancing their mental skills relating to athletic performance.

Dr. Mack and his wife Stacey, also a UNI graduate, have two children: Dustin and Lindsey, who is also a UNI alumni. In his free time he is a proud supporter of UNI Athletics, an avid St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan, and enjoys participating in physical activities and exercise.

GRADUATE ALUMNI PROFILE: CHAD ADAMS

Chad Adams received his master's in public policy from UNI in 1999. While taking classes Chad developed a passion for government and public service. After taking coursework and meeting several city administrators who were enrolled at UNI in the public policy program, Chad knew that local government was his calling. Chad stated, "UNI and the Public Policy Program allowed me to take selective coursework, beyond the required courses, to tailor my education that would best prepare me as a local government administrator. I also had the experience of working in the President's Office as a graduate assistant for a year, which allowed me to learn more about policy development and ultimately draft policies for the university." After graduating from UNI, Chad was hired as the City Administrator of Onawa, Iowa. Onawa is a town of 3,000 located between Omaha and Sioux City. Chad was the first city administrator, where he helped organizations and the community establish position among other area towns. Chad said, "I had a great experience in Onawa and worked on a variety of projects ranging from daily zoning code enforcement and nuisance complaints, to building a Community/ Recreation Center and revitalizing their historic downtown with other community partners." After serving as the city administrator of Onawa for three and half years, Chad was hired as the City Administrator for Medina, Minn. Medina is a fast-growing and affluent suburb of the Twin Cities. Much of Chad's work in Medina focused on growth and land-use matters. Chad said "I thoroughly enjoyed working in Medina and it was a difficult decision to move from a stable position. However, my ultimate career goal was to work for a regional center." After eight and a half years in Medina, Chad accomplished his goal and became the City Manager of Albert Lea, Minn. As City Manager Chad is responsible for overseeing all department personnel, public services, city budget and enforcement of city codes and polices. He reports directly to the City Council. The council meets every two weeks to provide him with direction on policy matters or act on policy recommendations made by him or other city boards or commissions. Chad said, "I really enjoy the diversity of the work as a City Manager. I have the opportunity to engage regularly with other community leaders to improve the quality of life in Albert Lea."

GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE: ROBIN SUMMERS



Robin Summers is a first year graduate student pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Women's and Gender Studies (WGS), as well as working as the programming graduate assistant. Robin graduated magna cum laude from UNI in December of 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology and a certificate in the sociology of family and life course. During a short hiatus before graduate school, Robin

gained practical experience by volunteering at Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Family and Children's Council of Black Hawk County

(FCC). In 2011, she received the Seasons of the Child Award from FCC. Robin's undergraduate faculty mentors, Dr. Kristin Mack and Dr. Ruth Chananie from the UNI Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminology, encouraged her to further her education. She was drawn to UNI's WGS program because of its applied track that focuses on gender and wellness and includes an internship. Robin appreciates the interdisciplinary nature of the program that allows her to create a course of study that best fits her interests and goals. In the future, Robin hopes to serve diverse and marginalized populations in a nonprofit setting in the Cedar Valley. Specifically, she wants to work to empower young women of color and help them achieve their goals. One of her long term goals is to start a non-profit organization that gives back to the community.

TEN THINGS ROD LIBRARY CAN DO FOR YOU

that you probably didn't know

1. OneSearch!: Our Google-like search of library content is your starting point for research.
2. Unique Primary Source Materials: Special Collections & University Archives and the UNI Museums offer unique primary source content. Do original research for publication related to Iowa rural schools, African tribal masks, and more!
3. Holds and Document Delivery: Find an item in our collection but can't come to the library? Request books through the library catalog for pickup at our Circulation Desk. Find an article and want us to scan it? Request it through Interlibrary Loan and we'll deliver it to your inbox.
4. Laptop Checkout: Rod Library's MultiService Center provides 35 laptops (both Windows and Macs) for checkout.
5. Group Study Rooms: Work collaboratively in one of 17 group study rooms equipped with LCD screens and computer hookups.
6. Video Production Equipment and Support: Creating a video? Our Digital Media Hub offers state-of-the-art recording equipment, including cameras, green screen technology and audio/video mixing board. Reserve one of our production studios and get individualized assistance from a peer Multimedia Consultant.
7. Personalized Research Consultations: Arrange a research consultation with a librarian at <http://www.library.uni.edu/library-instruction/request-research-consultation>.
8. Wireless Printing: Send print jobs to library printers from your laptop or mobile device. Instructions available at <http://www.library.uni.edu/its/support/article/1819>.
9. Digital Publishing: The library's new institutional repository provides a platform for publishing your research so it will get noticed on the Web. Interested? Contact Cynthia Coulter (cynthia.coulter@uni.edu).
10. A Place to Present Your Research: Rod Library seeks to provide scholarly programming to the campus. Contact Chris Cox (chris.cox@uni.edu) with presentation ideas.

We're always looking for new ways to support your coursework and scholarship. Have an idea to improve library collections, services and spaces? Email us at libaskus@uni.edu.



GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

The third Graduate Student Advisory Board (GSAB) meeting was held Tuesday, Feb. 4 with 10 members and three UNI Graduate College staff members in attendance. During the meeting the following topics were discussed:

- Dr. Licari stated that graduate students are taking advantage of available travel funds to present at conferences. He will look into additional sources of funding for the 2014-2015 school year.
- Dr. Licari noted that May graduation for graduate students will be held Friday, May 9, at 7 p.m. in the McCleod Center. Michelle Czarnecki, a UNI Postsecondary Affairs: Student Affairs graduate, will be the commencement speaker.
- Dr. Shoshanna Coon encouraged May graduates to register for graduation before April 1 to avoid a late fee.
- Susie Schwieger noted that Leslie Prideaux of the UNI Alumni Association is hosting Grad Fest celebration for May graduates on April 3 from 6-8 p.m. at Ginger's on College Hill and graduate students are invited to attend.
- Michelle Czarnecki, a NISG Graduate Senator, discussed the dwindling funds for student organizations and encouraged organizations to apply for funding soon.
- Leila Rod-Welch, the Outreach Services Librarian and Bibliographer from Rod Library, gave a presentation about services for students in the library such as personal research consultations, a media hub for producing videos, and quiet study rooms. Visit <http://www.library.uni.edu/> or contact leila.rod-welch@uni.edu for more information.

Graduate students should contact gradlife@uni.edu with any concerns or issues for discussion in the next GSAB meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 from noon to 1 p.m. in the CME.



UNI BOTANICAL CENTER

Do you need an escape from the frigid weather and bleak, snow-covered landscape? The UNI Botanical Center is located directly south of Wright Hall and houses a vast variety of plant species and bright, friendly tropical birds. While the main purpose of the Botanical Center is to teach biology students about the diversity of plant species and their ecosystems, it is also open for anyone who just needs a relaxing stroll through the green houses.

The Botanical Center is open from 8 am to 4 pm Monday through Friday. Their annual plant sale will be held Thursday May 1, this year from 7:30 am to 3 pm.

For more information about the Botanical Center visit their website at <http://www.uni.edu/biology/botanicalcenter/index.html>.

UNI DANCE MARATHON

Nate Dobbels, a second year Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs student, is the Executive Co-Director of UNI's Dance Marathon. Nate and co-director Emily Brodie coordinate teams and develop and oversee the Dance Marathon events. Dance Marathon is a national movement that raises money for the Children's Miracle Network. UNI's fundraising efforts support the University of Iowa Children's Hospital that provides services for over 30 miracle families in the Cedar Valley. The money raised funds research, and this year it will help fund a new pediatric intensive care unit room at the new University of Iowa Children's Hospital. Events and fundraisers throughout the year culminate in one 12 hour celebration on Saturday, March 1 from noon to midnight in Maucker Union. All UNI students are encouraged to participate as "dancers" by registering at www.unidancemarathon.com.



AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION PRESENTATIONS

Two graduate students, Kristie Beyer and Angel Munson, in the literacy education program will present at the American Educational Research Association (AERA) annual meeting, April 2014, in Philadelphia.

Papers will be presented in an alternative poster session, where initial posters will be presented (papers are posted online at AERA prior to the conference) with follow-up critique by a discussant of the research presented across the papers in this alternative session. The audience will then have time to ask researchers questions about their research work.

Kristie completed a self-study involving personal histories to examine language and meanings within her professional history. The text was analyzed using a constant comparative

method involving coding of the statements and phrases. Through this process specific meanings were reflected and major themes including awareness, literacy and strategic thinking were revealed. Her work connects back to training processes involved in Reading Recovery.

Angel focused on the process of the individual reading conference within the reading workshop. The study was conducted over a semester of instruction in the spring of 2013. She worked to determine common themes across journal entries, transcripts of meetings with a literacy coach, and her responses to the students' reader response journal entries.

Congratulations to both Angel and Kristie on their accomplishments!

PUBLIC POLICY STUDENT, CHANCE FINEGAN ASSISTS IN SECURING THE MILLER CREEK WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT



Chance Finegan, an intern with the Waterloo Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and MPP student, recently helped secure the Miller Creek Water Quality Improvement Project Grant. Finegan, a soil conservation aide with SWCD, served as the

primary grant writer and project coordinator for the grant which aims at increasing the adoption of conservation practices on local farms, in turn improving water quality. The grant, funded by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Iowa Water Quality Initiative (IDALS), provides nearly \$500,000 for the project over the next three years. The Initiative was announced by Gov. Terry Branstad in 2013 as part of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, designating eight priority watersheds across Iowa for immediate attention and the creation of watershed demonstration projects.

Working to secure the grant involved not only extensive effort, time and energy from Finegan but also from the SWCD and commissioners, IDALS staff, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as well as private landowners. The funding Finegan helped secure will primarily be used to serve the southern portion of Black Hawk County. It will address the challenge of improving water quality by demonstrating the installation and effectiveness of conservation practices through the use of a demonstration watershed. The ultimate goal is to foster adoption of conservation practices on farms in the area. Secured funding will also introduce an innovative education campaign featuring a digital learning

commons, social media efforts, quarterly webinars, workshops, and networking events.

Finegan completed his undergraduate coursework at the University of Tennessee at Martin in natural resources management. His background is primarily in natural and cultural heritage interpretation. The Miller Creek grant is Finegan's first introduction to grant-writing and he attributes his graduate coursework as preparing him for his internship with the SWCD. Finegan specifically cites Dr. Chris Larimer's course on public policy process as a major factor in his ability to examine literature and discover new, innovative ways of designing this conservation program.

Currently Chance is working with Dr. Leisl Carr-Childers in the history department and researching public lands history in Alaska, specifically the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and the impact it has had on the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

More information about the Miller Creek Water Quality Improvement Project can be found at:

- <http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/press/2013press/press12062013.asp>
- <http://www.cleanwateriowa.org>
- <http://www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu/>
- <http://www.cleanwateriowa.org/farm-practices.aspx>

On behalf of the Graduate College, we would like to congratulate Chance for all his success!

DOCTORAL CANDIDATE DANIEL MOURLAM RECEIVES GRANT FROM INTEL CORPORATION

Daniel Mourlam, doctoral candidate in curriculum and instruction, along with advisor Dr. Mary Herring, UNI College of Education Associate Dean, received a \$35,000 grant from the Intel Corporation in collaboration with American Institute for Research, to conduct a study of the Intel Teach Elements. The study seeks to examine how university faculty integrate the Intel Teach Elements modules in their teacher preparation courses and determine if there is any development of pre-service teacher technological, pedagogical, content knowledge. This mixed methods study is taking place at institutions in Iowa, Illinois, and California.

Daniel Mourlam, Dr. Herring, and Dr. Leigh Zeitz, associate professor of Curriculum and Instruction, also received a \$2,000 grant from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) to examine the implementation of the Intel Teach Elements within teacher education courses at UNI. This study also seeks to describe how faculty and students perceive the Intel Teach Elements as being beneficial in meeting intended course outcomes. In early March, Daniel and Dr. Herring will attend the AACTE Annual Meeting in Indianapolis to present their findings.

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS ATTEND 47TH ANNUAL ABCT CONVENTION

Clinical Psychology students Brittany Lewno, Gina Sacchetti, Luci Dumas and Kirstin Kramer attended the 47th Annual Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Convention in Nashville, Nov. 21-24. At the convention these students attended a variety of general sessions, special interest groups and clinical round tables. The sessions ranged in topic from evidence-based treatments for individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia to best known treatments for incarcerated individuals. Students were given the opportunity to interact with professors they were applying to work with at the doctoral level, as well as reach out to current professionals for guidance on their master's theses.

DOCTOR OF TECHNOLOGY STUDENT MELANIE ABBAS PRESENTS AT 2013 ATMAE CONFERENCE

Doctor of Technology student Melanie Abbas presented a paper at the 2013 Association of Technology, Management, and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) Annual Conference. The conference was held in New Orleans, Nov. 20-23. In her presentation titled "Development of a Traffic Shaping Algorithm for An Efficient Wireless Network on A University Campus," Melanie discussed the complexities of managing wireless networks to support a university campus. Various traffic shaping algorithms were investigated vis-à-vis Quality of Service (QoS) issues, and an algorithm has been proposed to improve the QoS on wireless campus networks.

Congratulations to Melanie on her success!

RACHEL ROUTIER AUTHORS CHAS ALUMNI MAGAZINE COMMUNIQUE

Rachel Routier, a graduate student in English: creative writing, was hired as the first ever graduate assistant under supervision of the Dean's Office in the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences to write the alumni magazine, Communique. Communique is a digital alumni magazine that is published annually by the College of Humanities, Arts & Sciences. The publication features various stories about CHAS students, faculty, and alumni. Rachel penned all but one article, and was responsible for researching, interviewing, and proofing every story. Graduate students interested in this type of work may consider applying for the position for 2014 – 2015 school year. The magazine can be viewed through this link <http://uni.edu/chas/communique>

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY STUDENT QINGSHAN LIAN ATTENDS RADIO AND WIRELESS WEEK 2013



A graduate student in the Department of Technology, Qingshan Lian, presented his work entitled "Measurement and Analysis of Intra-Vehicle UWB Channels," at the IEEE Radio and Wireless Week 2013 (RWW 2013), a prestigious international conference on radio and wireless communication research. Qingshan completed his presentation with

the assistance of his research supervisor Dr. Hong (Jeffrey) Nie. Additionally, Qingshan's paper was selected as a finalist for RWW 2013 Student Paper Competition. With the support of UNI Intercollegiate Academics Fund, he attended the RWW 2013 held in Austin, Texas. Qingshan graduated with his master's degree in the summer of 2013 and is continuing his education as a doctoral student at UNI.

Congratulations Qingshan Lian on your success!

RACHEL JONES SELECTED AS NATIONAL ACADEMIC ADVISING ASSOCIATION'S GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Rachel M. Jones, a graduate student in post-secondary education: student affairs program was selected to receive the Graduate Student Annual Conference Scholarship from the National Academic Advising Association. The scholarship covered the costs associated with the NACADA Annual Conference that was held in Salt Lake City. The scholarship

was awarded to Rachel based on her essay submission and recommendation letters. Rachel is also now a member of NACADA as a result of winning the scholarship. NACADA has over 10,000 members including faculty, professional advisors, administrators, counselors, and others in field of academic and student affairs.

Congratulations Rachel on your success!

SCHOOL LIBRARY STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

Andrea Hora, Lisa Collier and Michelle Kruse have been awarded School Library Studies scholarships. Lisa Collier received the Iowa Library Association Foundation Scholarship for fall 2013, her final semester in the School Library Studies program. She completed a Master's paper entitled, "A Training Guide and Reference Handbook for Elementary School Library Secretaries in the Iowa City Community School District" and graduated in December 2013. Michelle Kruse received the Rigor-Madsen Scholarship in the fall of 2013 and Andrea Hora received the Mary Lou Kirk Scholarship in the fall of 2013.

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: STUDENT AFFAIRS GRADUATE STUDENTS ATTENDED NASPA CONFERENCE



Sixteen UNI graduate students from the Postsecondary Education: Student Affairs graduate program attended the 2013 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) IV-East Conference held in Skokie, Ill. on Nov. 3-5.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT GRADUATE STUDENTS ATTEND CONFERENCE

In February 2014, nine psychology graduate students attended the Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology to present their research. The topics of research ranged from the effects of political orientation on psychological processes to mental health stigma. Below is a list of the presentation titles and authors (graduate students are bolded):

1. Political Orientation and Numerical Estimations of Political Issues: The Role of Numerical Anchors and Cognitive Load – **Asha Ganesan** & Helen C. Harton
2. Blind to Color but Not to Status: The Effects of Religious Identity and Political Orientation on Racial and Economic Prejudice – **Kristin A. Broussard**, Helen C. Harton, **Carol Tweten**, Allie Thompson, Alexia Farrell, & **Paden Goldsmith**
3. The Effects of Need for Closure on Responsibility Attribution – **Brock Rozich**
4. Driving Anger and Personality Disorders – **Gina Sacchetti** & Sundé Nesbit
5. Trait Variability for Individuals with Personality Disorders: A Frequency-Based Approach – **Carol Tweten** & Sundé Nesbit
6. Social Norms, Racial Microaggressions, Traditional Practices, and Alcohol Use among Native American College Students – **Wayva W. Lyons** & Helen C. Harton
7. “Catching” Behaviors from Our Neighbors: Spatial Clustering of Health Behaviors in College Residence Halls – Helen C. Harton, **Peng Zhang**, Nicholas T. Schwab, & Brooke Ammerman

GRADUATE COLLEGE STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION

To submit articles for consideration in the UNI Grad Student News contact gradlife@uni.edu.
With any questions or concerns feel free to contact the Graduate College staff listed below.

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